

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A filter element for separating solid particles from a fluid containing ~~them~~ the solid particles, which comprises an open-cell porous molded body as a filter element base and wherein ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders, wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders ~~which~~ have an average molecular- weight of 3,000,000 to 11,000,000 and a bulk specific gravity of 0.15 to 0.29; wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders, are the form an aggregate of primary particles, and wherein the aggregates are in the shape of a bunch of grapes or a cauliflower, and wherein the aggregates are shaped to have voids of 1 to 5 μ m in a part wherein the primary particles are connected; and wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders are filled into the or coated into pores on the surface of a the open-cell porous molded body filter element base; wherein made of an the open-cell porous molded body is prepared by heating and sintering synthetic resin powders, a non-woven fabric or a felt.

2. (original): The filter element according to claim 1, wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders have an average particle size of from 3 to 150 μ m.

3. (currently amended): The ~~heat resistive~~ filter element according to claim 1, wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powder further contains an antioxidant, which is impregnated into the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powder by heating, to improve its heat resistance ~~is applied to the filter element by impregnating ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powder particles with an antioxidant.~~

4. (currently amended): A method for producing a filter element for separating solid particles from a fluid containing ~~them~~ the solid particles, which comprises providing a filter element base by heating and sintering synthetic resin powders, a non-woven fabric or a felt to produce an open-cell porous molded body; and applying a suspension solution containing ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders, water, and a water-dispersible binder to the surface of the open-cell porous molded body, followed by heating,

wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders, which have an average molecular weight of 3,000,000 to 11,000,000 and a bulk specific gravity of 0.15 to 0.29;
wherein the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fine powders are the in the form of an aggregate of primary particles, wherein the aggregates are in the shape of a bunch of grapes or a cauliflower, and are shaped to have voids of 1 to 5 μ m in a part wherein the primary particles are connected, ~~are coated with an aqueous suspension dispersed in water together with at least a water-dispersible binder and filled into the pores on the surface of a filter element base made of an open-cell porous molded body prepared by heating and sintering synthetic resin powders, a non-woven fabric or a felt.~~